

## WHCoA CAREGIVING STRATEGIES

Delegates at the 2005 White House Conference on Aging developed many implementation strategies around caregiving and then gave their strongest support to the following. They may well serve as a foundation for local planning or state-level advocacy..

### NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM (PART OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT)

- Expand the program across the life span to cover caregivers of people of all ages
- Double the funding to \$324 million
- Define "family caregivers" to include friends and neighbors
- Expand the definition of "grandparents" caring for grandkids to include all types of relatives caring for dependent children
- Permanently authorize the Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to be supportive of family caregivers

### A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO SUPPORT CAREGIVERS

- Develop a national strategy for supporting family caregivers and ensuring that they have "fair working conditions," including offering a range of financial and other incentives to encourage caregiving, such tax credits, affordable healthcare and early Medicare buy-in, public disability insurance, Social Security credits for time off work spent caregiving, and respite care equivalent to a two-week vacation.
- Promote services and resources for long-distance caregivers

### A NATIONAL LONG-TERM CARE POLICY

- Establish a national long-term care policy with the following key features:

- A comprehensive consumer education program and incentives to plan ahead
  - A partnership that involves the private sector and all other stakeholders
  - A comprehensive needs assessment for LTC consumers
  - Information services that respect consumer choice
  - An extensive network of support services for family caregivers

- For the sick and seriously disabled, offer a comprehensive package of coordinated long-term care services to enable the person to live independently as long as possible; these services include extensive caregiver support, housing, transportation, nutrition, medical care, etc.

## SENIOR CENTERS

- Create a distinct title in the Older Americans Act for multi-purpose senior centers which serve family caregivers along with older people.

## CONGREGATE AND HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

- Expand congregate and home-delivered meals and nutrition education, screening, assessment and counseling to family caregivers, where appropriate

## KINSHIP CARE

- Encourage state school boards and departments of education and human services to allow a relative caregiver without legal custody or guardianship to submit an affidavit to enroll child in school and to consent to medical treatment on his or her behalf.
- Ensure that government programs, including navigator programs, offer an array of services, such as legal, housing, healthcare, education, advocacy, counseling and respite.
- Culturally and socio-economically sensitive outreach and education directed at caregivers, as well as schools and the public
- Provide for adequate funding for "grand" families, including:

Title IVE foster care and for subsidized guardianship  
Housing: support HUD, NAHASDA, and Legacy  
Reauthorization of Indian Healthcare Improvement Act

Note: If you are interested in reviewing all of the highlighted implementation strategies presented to the delegates on the last day of the WHCoA: go to the website [www.whcoa.gov](http://www.whcoa.gov); scroll down to the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet, WHCoA Speakers and Presentations; under Speakers' Remarks, scroll down to Wednesday, December 14, 2005; click on Implementation Strategy Highlight Report.